

Economic data indicates that an economic recovery is underway. Instead of the economy shrinking at a rate of 6.8 percent, as it had at the end of 2008, there have now been four consecutive quarters of growth. That's encouraging news, yet people are still hurting. The recovery is not as fast or as robust as it needs to be to benefit American families. While the private sector has created jobs for six straight months - in contrast, in December 2008 employers shed 750,000 jobs according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics - too many who want a job, still cannot find one.

Real and sustained job creation will come from businesses on Main Street, not Wall Street. Small businesses are the key to our economic prosperity and the key to helping families work their way into the Middle Class, not falling out of it while Wall Street prospers. Yet, as I regularly talk with Central New Jersey small business owners, they make it clear to me that they continue to struggle to get the loans they need.

I am working to ensure that big banks loan more to small businesses and to encourage [small business investment](#) and job creation by [cutting taxes](#) in a way that benefits small, innovative businesses. I also continue to host my series of workshops for small business owners, helping them get the capital they need, helping them understand how they can access available tax credits, and listening to their ideas and suggestions on how to improve our economy. I've posted resources from these workshops at holt.house.gov.

I want to hear your ideas and solutions to create jobs and help middle class families. Please see the contact information below.

Solving Your Problems

An unemployed woman from Hunterdon had attempted for a year to receive compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for her mother, the wife of a deceased veteran. The mother has dementia and is in need of 24-hour nursing care, much of which the daughter has been providing. After she came to me for help, I contacted the VA, stressing the urgency

of the situation. I followed up on a daily basis until payments for her mother's care - both retroactive and ongoing - were approved.

I have helped more than 17,000 constituents cut through bureaucratic red tape to resolve their everyday problems. If I can help you – whether by expediting your application for VA benefits, solving problems with the IRS, or helping to obtain Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid benefits – please give me a call at 1-87-RUSH-HOLT or go to my [website](#).

Improving Airline Safety

Congress passed and President Obama on Sunday signed legislation that will ensure that pilots of regional air carriers are held to the same high standards of training and safety as pilots of larger, commercial airlines. [The law](#), which includes some provisions I introduced, is a response to the tragic plane crash of Continental flight 3407 near Buffalo, which killed several New Jersey residents. The new safety requirements address serious safety issues exposed by the National Transportation Safety Board's investigation of the crash, including the minimum number of flight hours required by pilots in training, pilot fatigue, and preparation for flying in poor weather.